

After cleanup, make Superfund site accessible

On Feb. 16, the Environmental Protection Agency answered questions about the fate of the Rolling Knolls Superfund site in Green Village, Chatham Township, with about 75 people attending via Zoom.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service presented results of recent environmental testing on 35 acres of the 170-acre site. This new information added to tests conducted for the EPA. Hazardous effluent dumped on the site is more widespread than previously believed, including mercury, PFASs, heavy metals and PCBs. The service also noted that clay suitable for capping the dump was available onsite, drastically reducing potential cleanup costs.

Most attendees urged a cleanup permitting walking trails through bird-filled meadows. If that is the outcome, Fish & Wildlife hopes to add the parcel to the Great Swamp Refuge — a true win-win.

If not, for the rest of our lives, we will walk past that site's chain link fences and "No Trespassing" signs, knowing that a toxic stew is seeping throughout, and warn our children and grandchildren, "Don't look down!"

Michael and Marilyn Dee *Harding Township*

Note: The writers are trustees of the Great Swamp Watershed Association.